

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final is made to the Office Action dated November 8, 2006. Claims 64 - 84 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment claims 64-66 and 69 have been amended to add the word "bending " before the word "stiffness." These claims have not been amended to distinguish the presently claimed invention over the prior art. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 71-84 are allowed. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

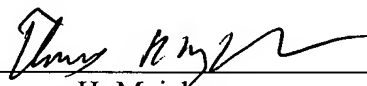
The Examiner has rejected claims 64-70 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,238,004 to Sahatjian et al. (the "Sahatjian patent"). Again, Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's position. Claims 64-70 are directed to an intracorporeal device comprising an elongated member having means for causing a substantially linear change in bending stiffness over the longitudinal length of the elongated member. Applicants have amended the original claims to add the word "bending" before the word "stiffness" in order to expedite allowance of this application. However, Applicants submit that the Sahatjian patent relied upon by the Examiner fails to disclose an elongated member having means for causing a substantially linear change in stiffness over the longitudinal length of the elongated member. Rather, the Sahatjian patent discloses a guide wire core made from a linear elastic precursor of a superelastic metal alloy. The stress-strain curve of Figure 4a in the Sahatjian patent does not show, or purport to show, substantial linear change in stiffness along the length of an elongated member since it graphically displays a completely different physical behavior. Therefore, the Examiner's reliance on the stress-strain curve of Figure 4a in the Sahatjian patent to support her position is misplaced. Applicants again respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Sahatjian patent as an anticipatory reference to claims 64-70.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any fees payable in connection with this response to Deposit Account No. 06-2425. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
FULWIDER PATTON LLP

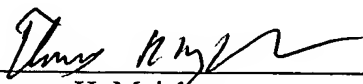
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